

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-13 will be pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 have been amended, and claim 5 has been cancelled.

I. Claims rejections - 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for containing conflicting broad and narrow range limitations.

This rejection has been traversed by amendment of the claims. With regard to claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-10, claims 1, 4 and 10 have been amended to remove the narrow limitation "such as line interference".

Although not rejected under this heading, claim 11 has also been amended to remove the same limitation.

Claims 2 and 6 have been amended to remove the narrow limitation "typically eight".

II. Claims rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 4, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US5418758.

Claim 4 has been amended thus rendering the rejection moot. Claim 4 recites that the first transmitter unit is adapted to control transmission of ultrasound signals so that transmission only takes place when no other transmitter units are transmitting signals. US5418758 fails to teach other transmitter units and fails to teach a transmitter unit adapted to control transmission of ultrasound signals so that transmission only takes place when no other transmitter units are transmitting signals. Rather, the distance measuring system taught by US5418758 has only a single distance transmitter.

Claim 4 further recites that a first transmitter unit is adapted to use a receiver unit to detect whether other transmitter units are transmitting signals. US5418758 further fails to teach this feature. The distance measuring system taught by US5418758 does not use a receiver unit to detect whether other transmitter units are transmitting signals.

Claims 6 and 7 depend on claim 4 and include all the limitations of claim 4. US5418758 therefore fails to teach the same features of claims 6 and 7.

III. Claims rejections - 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US5418758 in combination with US6724688. Claim 5 has been canceled. However, the amendment to claim 4 incorporates some of the features of claim 5.

The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection by asserting the priority date of the current application of 9 April 2002, which is prior to the earliest prior art date of US6724688. In support thereof is attached a certified translation of the priority document NO20021672. In that regard it is noted that the PCT application as filed directly corresponded with the priority document, and the translation thereof submitted by the IB would thus directly correspond to a translation of the priority document as well.

IV. Conclusion

The Applicant has amended the claims to remove all reference numerals relating to the Figures since the claims are not limited to the embodiments shown in the Figures.

The Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested.